

# **NEWS RELEASE**



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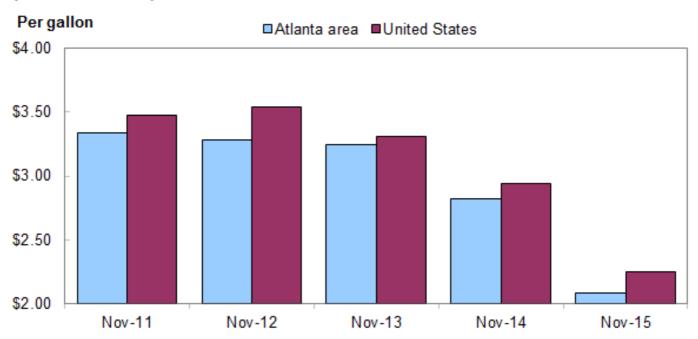
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## Average Energy Prices, Atlanta – November 2015

Gasoline prices averaged \$2.083 a gallon in the Atlanta area in November 2015, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin noted that area gasoline prices were 73.5 cents lower than last November when they averaged \$2.818 per gallon. Atlanta area households paid an average of 11.1 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh) of electricity in November 2015, matching the 11.1 cents per kWh paid in November 2014. The average cost of utility (piped) gas at \$1.396 per therm was less than the \$1.514 per therm spent last year. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect the impact of seasonal influences.)

Atlanta area consumers paid \$2.083 a gallon for gasoline in November 2015, 7.4 percent lower than the \$2.249 paid nationally. A year earlier, consumers in the Atlanta area also paid less than the national average for a gallon of gasoline. The local price of gasoline has been at least 4 percent lower than the national average in the month of November in four of the past five years. (See <u>chart 1</u>.)

Chart 1. Average prices for gasoline, Atlanta and the United States, 2011-2015 (as of November)

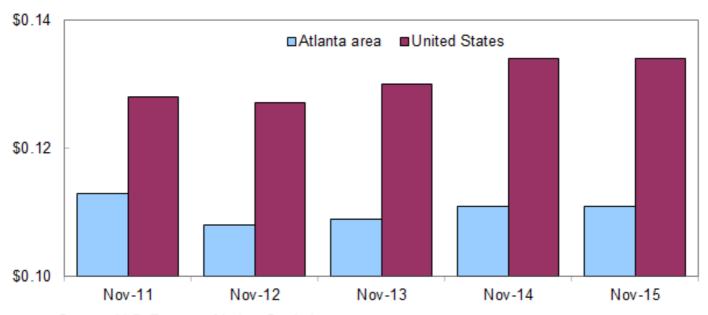


Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The 11.1 cents per kWh Atlanta households paid for electricity in November was 17.2 percent less than the nationwide average of 13.4 cents per kWh. Last November, electricity costs in Atlanta were also less than those paid for the nation. In four of the past five years, prices paid by Atlanta area consumers for electricity was lower than the U.S. average by at least 15 percent. (See <u>chart 2</u>.)

Chart 2. Average prices for electricity, Atlanta and the United States, 2011-2015 (as of November)

#### Per kWh

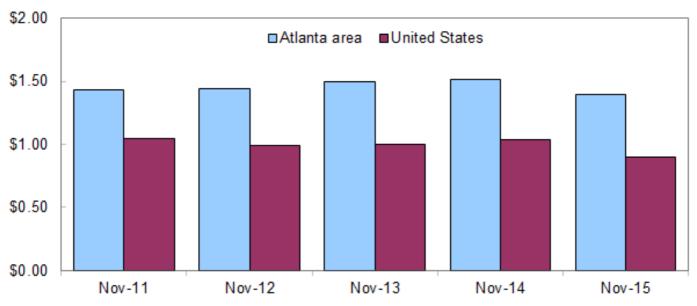


Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Prices paid by Atlanta area consumers for utility (piped) gas, commonly referred to as natural gas, were \$1.396 per therm, or 54.6 percent higher than the national average in November 2015 (\$0.903 per therm). A year earlier, area consumers paid 46.3 percent more per therm for natural gas compared to the nation. In the past five years, the per therm cost for natural gas in November for Atlanta households was at least 37 percent more than the U.S. average. (See <u>chart 3</u>.)

Chart 3. Average prices for utility (piped) gas, Atlanta and the United States, 2011-2015 (as of November)

#### Per therm



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The **Atlanta, Ga., Metropolitan Statistical Area** consists of Barrow, Bartow, Carroll, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry, Newton, Paulding, Pickens, Rockdale, Spalding, and Walton Counties in Georgia.

The Consumer Price Index for December 2015 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, January 20, 2016.

### **Technical Note**

Average prices are estimated from Consumer Price Index (CPI) data for selected commodity series to support the research and analytic needs of CPI data users. Average prices for electricity, utility (piped) gas, and gasoline are published monthly for the U.S. city average, the 4 regions, the 3 population size classes, 10 region/size-class cross-classifications, and the 14 largest local index areas. For electricity, average prices per kilowatt-hour (kWh) are published. For utility (piped) gas, average prices per therm are published. For gasoline, the average price per gallon is published. Average prices for commonly available grades of gasoline are published as well as the average price across all grades.

All eligible prices are converted to a price per normalized quantity. These prices are then used to estimate a price for a defined fixed quantity. The average price per kilowatt-hour represents the total bill divided by the kilowatt-hour usage. The total bill is the sum of all items applicable to all consumers appearing on an electricity bill including, but not limited to, variable rates per kWh, fixed costs, taxes, surcharges, and

credits. This calculation also applies to the average price per therm for utility (piped) gas.

Information from this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-691-5200; Federal Relay Service: 800-877-8339.

Table 1. Average prices for gasoline, electricity, and utility (piped) gas, Atlanta and the United States, November 2014-2015, not seasonally adjusted

	Gasoline per gallon		Electricity per kWh		Utility (piped) gas per therm	
		United		United		
Year and month	Atlanta area	States	Atlanta area	States	Atlanta area	United States
2014						
November	2.818	2.945	0.111	0.134	1.514	1.035
December	2.493	2.618	0.111	0.135	1.561	1.060
2015						
January	2.073	2.170	0.113	0.138	1.484	1.036
February	2.152	2.308	0.113	0.138	1.463	1.007
March	2.246	2.544	0.113	0.136	1.455	0.985
April	2.295	2.545	0.113	0.137	1.426	0.947
May	2.609	2.832	0.118	0.137	1.422	0.930
June	2.801	2.889	0.150	0.143	1.444	0.942
July	2.689	2.893	0.149	0.142	1.444	0.933
August	2.504	2.745	0.149	0.142	1.448	0.932
September	2.246	2.463	0.150	0.141	1.427	0.921
October	2.137	2.357	0.116	0.136	1.433	0.909
November	2.083	2.249	0.111	0.134	1.396	0.903